

Four Corners Air Quality Task Force
Cumulative Effects Workgroup Meeting
August 9, 2006

Participants: Kevin Golden, EPA; Mike George, NPS; Kevin Briggs, CO APCD; Joe Miller, Consultant for Southern Ute, Ethan Hinkley, Southern Ute Environmental; Cindy Cody, EPA; Craig Nicholls, BLM

The Cumulative Effects workgroup met on August 9 during the Cortez, CO AQTF meeting. The first topic discussed was the verbal feedback Mike George had received from WRAP (Tom Moore and Gail Tonnesen) in response to the workgroups request for to extract emissions information for the domain previously specified by the CE workgroup. Mike reported that WRAP would be willing to extract total pollutant emissions for the criteria pollutants (SO₂, NO₂, PM₁₀, etc.), but would not be able to subdivide the emissions into all the individual source groupings contained in the WRAP data base. Extraction of all the individual source groupings would be too labor intensive for WRAP to perform. The workgroup reviewed the listing of source groupings available in the WRAP modeling files and narrowed down our request to the following categories: On-road mobile, off-road mobile, oil and gas, area sources, point sources, and road dust. The workgroup also decided that it would be desirable to obtain emissions for both the baseyear (2002) and projection years (2018), with a somewhat higher priority placed on obtaining 2018. Mike will contact the WRAP again with the revised request and report back to the workgroup on the response.

The workgroup reviewed the draft responses to the tagged mitigation option papers referred to the CE group, and had no changes to the draft responses. The discussion then focused on who would actually conduct the analyses for each of the mitigation options. Craig Nicholls volunteered to look into the following measures: 1) Automation of wells to reduce truck traffic (2 measures), and, 2) Reduced truck traffic by centralizing water storage facilities. Craig felt that TRC may have some information on these measures through some ongoing projects in WY. Mike George will look into conducting analysis for the following measures: 1) reduced vehicular dust production by enforcement of speed limits, 2) reduced vehicular dust production through gravel roads, and 3) reduced water truck traffic through optimization of truck routes. EPA and CO would attempt to team up with industry experts to address the following issues: 1) SCR on rig engines, 2) Implementation of EPAs non road diesel engine rule, 3) Install electric compression, and 4) follow EPA new source performance standards. It was noted that none of the agencies participating in the CE group have economists who can address the air quality effectiveness of tax or economic development incentives, and it was suggested that if no “canned” analysis exists, then the issue needs to be referred to the policy group for direction. Workgroup members would make an initial effort to “scope out” their assignment in the next few weeks and would report back on progress in a brief call scheduled for August 31, 2006 at 10:00 am. The target date for completing the analysis of the mitigation options noted above is October 31, 2006.

In discussing emission inventories, the status of the Southern Ute tribal emission inventory came up. EPA noted that the large point source emissions are available through the title 5 program and those emissions are included in the current WRAP and other inventories, but that data on smaller oil and gas point and area source emissions are not yet available. The small point and area source data are needed ASAP for the PSD increment study that Environ is conducting. Joe and Ethan indicated that release of these data has not yet been approved by the tribal council, but they would attempt to get the data released quickly in view of the pressing current needs.